



**GREET, GATHER,
GROW AND GO
IN GOD'S GRACE**

PEACE † GRUE

God's Country News

AN ELCA PARISH



**TO BECOME THE
VOICE AND
HANDS OF JESUS**

SEPTEMBER 2023

Inside this issue:

Pastoral from the Pastor	2
BIRTHDAYS-Sept,	3
Grue Sunday School	3
Peace Sunday School	4
Acolytes & Psalm Readers	5
Peace Council Minutes	6
Grue Council Minutes	7
Parish Council Minutes	8
Worship Committee	9
GRUE WELCA News	10
PEACE WELCA News	11

**ATTENTION SUNDAY SCHOOL
GRUE STARTS SEPTEMBER 10TH
PEACE STARTS OCTOBER 1ST
YOUTH AND PARENTS**

Sunday School
Learn & grow
together
with Jesus



God's Promise
isn't that He'll keep bad things from happening; it's that He'll be there if they do.



WORSHIP TIMES CHANGE SEPTEMBER thru DECEMBER:
GRUE service 9:00 am SS 10:15 am
PEACE service am10:45 am SS 9:30 am



Pastoral from the Pastor September 2023

Dear friends in Christ at Peace and Grue,

Socrates' character Plato claimed that life is enriched not so much by good answers as it is by good questions. As a seminarian I was given such a question by Dr. Gerhard Forde when he asked in a lecture: "Now that you don't have to do anything for salvation, what are you going to do?" The answer I found is in Paul's letter to the Romans. It was Paul who first raised the question when he argued that "a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law" (Romans 3:28). "Are we to sin, because we are not under the law but under grace?" (Romans 6:15). Paul's answer is found most explicitly in Romans 12-15, where Paul gives specific directives concerning Christian behavior. Selections from these chapters are the second lesson reading for the last week of August and the first three weeks in September. With that in mind, I've chosen to comment on Romans 12:2 in this month's newsletter article.

"Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

This verse is put in the passive voice: not "transform your life" but "be transformed by the renewal of your mind." What could that mean? Paul has just completed his probe into the greatest mystery of all, the issue of election. Those who strove with might and main to attain righteousness were cut off; yet those who did not strive were welcomed. "O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!...For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:33, 36) Transformation is God's business: "be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the *will of God*." God will have his way with us in the end.

This means a whole lot of things. Paul has a long list in the verses that follow: Let love be genuine; bless those who persecute you; live in harmony; repay no one evil for evil; feed your enemy; overcome evil with good; be subject to the higher powers-any one of which is enough to occupy a lifetime. For now I am going to focus on just one, the one which heads the whole list: "By the grace given to me," Paul says, "I bid everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought, but to think with sober judgment" (Romans 12:3).

Interesting that should come first. One of the great problems of the modern age in which we live is the high inflation rate. We blather easily about progress and change and growth and so on, until the whole enterprise, like gigantic balloon that rises only by virtue of its own hot air, eventually goes too high and comes crashing to earth. I suppose that is precisely the transformation, to be stripped of our illusions, to gain some clarity about who we are and what we are up to. For what do we have in the end but the shocking realization that we are saved by grace alone? What do we have other than that promise, as Paul put it in 2 Corinthians 3, that we all with unveiled face beholding the glory of the Lord *are being changed* into his likeness from one degree of glory to another. Believe it that you may taste what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

I hope your summer went well, and you are prepared to move into this fall season.

Pastor Dan

BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 1st
Richard Clemenson
September 2nd
Vikki Adams
Julie VanSanten
September 4th
Mary Jo Beck
September 5th
Jonas Johnson
September 6th
Peggy Adams
Kristin Spangler
September 7th
Lukas Anderson
Angie Kamrath
September 8th
Jeff Driggins
September 9th
Laurie Melberg
September 11th
Derreck Hanson
Jean Wick
September 13th
Kalista Aamot
Mikayla Dahlen
Tammy Koefod
September 15th
Hayley Domek (Barry)
Norma Clemenson
Sandy Cunningham
Everleigh Driggins
September 16th
Caitlin Drever (Dahlen)
September 17th
Leslie Anderson

September 18th
Chelsy Moe (Ness)
September 19th
Kyra Aamot
Elli Jo Johnsrud
Mark Koefod
Molly Sorenson
September 20th
Roger Langlie
Aaron Olson
Tonya Stierlen
September 21st
Troy Langlie
September 22nd
Jenna Nelson
September 23rd
Taylor Birr
September 24th
Patt Lystrom
September 25th
Randi Hockert
Jordan Lillemon
September 26th
Josey Ness
September 27th
Lyndee Evavold
September 28th
Chase Kamrath
September 30th
Tim Gradin

If I don't have your birth date or if I have it listed incorrectly please e-mail or call - 747-2273 /

Peace@prtcl.com

Melissa R



GRUE SUNDAY SCHOOL	
SEPTEMBER 10TH	
September 10th	SS @ 10:15 1 st Day of Sunday School
September 17th	SS @ 10:15 Sunday school will collect "noisy change" offering in Church.
September 24h	SS @ 10:15 Road ditch cleaning - weather permitting, everyone invited to join us.

GRUE women meet:

Tuesday, September 19th, @ 1:30 pm.
Betty Torgrimson Hosting



RUTH / REBECCA Circle meeting:

Tuesday, September 19th, 9:30am @ Peace.

PEACE SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR October-Dec 2023



PEACE SERVICE 10:45AM / SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM

October 1st	SS @ 9:30 1 st Day of Sunday School – Rally Day Potluck dinner after church
October 8th	SS @ 9:30
October 15th	SS @ 9:30
October 22nd	No SS MEA
October 29th	SS @ 9:30
November 5	SS @ 9:30
November 12	SS @ 9:30
November 19	SS @ 9:30 Practice for Christmas program begins
November 26	No SS Thanksgiving
December 3	SS @ 9:30
December 10	SS @ 9:30
December 17	Christmas Program

ATTENTION SUNDAY SCHOOL YOUTH AND PARENTS

Sunday, October 1st marks the kickoff for classes to begin again. There will also be a blissing of backpacks for all students in school. Bring yours on the 1st and be reminded that Jesus goes with you through the halls and classrooms everyday.

Please make it a point to attend worship that Sunday!
Sunday School teachers will be installed on that day as well.
-MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD'S FAITH-

Saturday September 30, Peace Pizza & Movie Night

5:30-8:00, Movie starts at 6:00
Everyone Welcome!



READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

**God's Country
News Articles
are DUE by the
20th of**



SEPTEMBER 3	SEPTEMBER 10	SEPTEMBER 17	SEPTEMBER 24
<p>First Reading Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm Psalm 26:1-8 Second Reading Romans 12:9-21 Gospel Matthew 16:21-28</p>	<p>First Reading Ezekiel 33:7-11 Psalm Psalm 119:33-40 Second Reading Romans 13:8-14 Gospel Matthew 18:15-20</p>	<p>First Reading Genesis 5:1-15-21 Psalm Psalm 103:[1-7]8-13 Second Reading Romans 14:1-12 Gospel Matthew 18:21-35</p>	<p>First Reading Jonah 3:10-4:11 Psalm Psalm 145:1-8 Second Reading Philippians 1:21-30 Gospel Matthew 20:1-16</p>



We are postponing Acolytes and Psalm readers until
October 1st, 2023.
Parents of students should be watching their mailboxes for a letter.
A schedule will follow in September.
Sincerely, The Education Committee

CONFIRMATION NEWS

This year's orientation meeting for *youth, parents & faith partners* of confirmation age will be held on Wednesday, September 6th at 7:00 at Peace church. Youth will be invited to sign and bring their covenants to worship on Sunday, September 17th.

FAITH PARTNERS

A very important part of the confirmation years is developing a relationship with an experienced Christian. We invite each student to choose someone from the congregation, who will spend time with them talking and learning about the faith. We ask that each pair spend a minimum of three sessions together in a year, and the adult is asked to submit a short report of the experience.

You don't need to have all the answers, just a willingness to listen.

Peace Council Meeting-August 9, 2023

Members present: Don Hanson, Pastor Dan, Louise Lang, Gene Jensen, Wayne Vorland, Duane Spielman, Jody Dahlen, and Donna Grover.

Additions to the agenda: None

Secretary's report: M/S/C to approve

Treasurer's report: M/S/C to approve

Committee Reports:

Education: Meeting on August 16th. List of congregational children was reviewed. There are 50 children who could come to Sunday School, and only 12 attend. Sunday School will resume in October.

Christian Growth: No report.

Worship: No report.

Property Management: Tree next to propane tank is scheduled to come down this Saturday.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Looking for 2 new members to fill the Council seats that will be exited by Donna and Louise. Please consider serving in this capacity.

Community Vacation Bible School was a huge success with over 100 kids attending!

Discussion of Confirmation Sunday. Pastor will coordinate with Melissa regarding ordering of crosses that are given by church.

Next meeting: Sunday, September 10th at 10:00 a.m. before church.

Motion by Louise, Second by Gene to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Dahlen

Peace Council Secretary

Grue Council meeting, August 9, 2023

In attendance: Melissa Runningen, Randy Koefod, Denise Juven, Gwen Lillemon and Darlane Miller

Devotion given at Parish meeting.

Secretary report: M/S/C

Treasurer's report: M/S/C Motion made to send out offering statements and include information about direct deposit into Grue's account.

Pastor's report was given during the Parish meeting.

Old Business

- Louvers and eaves not fixed—waiting for weather to cool off.
- Letter from Norway requesting information about Grue church's history. Request for information will be forwarded to Kathy Evavold. The information that is being requested should be at the OTC museum.

New Business

- Youth refund raising for the 2024 Youth Conference is going well, currently 2,100\$ has been raised.
- August 20, 2023-Parish picnic-list of items needed gone over.
- U of M Morris will write up three contracts regarding usage of the church. Larger groups would be in the spring and fall, this is the time the basement would be utilized. The U of M is thinking about building in the future.
- Harvest Meal-November 18, 2023 will be dine in only, menus has been decided (tradition Thanksgiving meal)
- Appreciation day for June will be September 10, 2023. Cake will be severed after service.
- A member of Grue council was approached about not having fellowship time after Sunday services. After much discussion, this item was tabled until the Annual meeting.

Next council meeting Sept. 17 at 10:00.

Motion made to adjourn following the Lord's Prayer.

In Christ's name,
Darlane Miller

Parish Council Wednesday, August 9th, 2023

Members present: Randy Koefod, Darlane Miller, Denise Juven, Melissa Runningen, Pastor Dan, Jody Dahlen, Gwen Lillemon, Don Hanson, Wayne Vorland, Gene Jensen, Louise Lang, Donna Grover, and Duane Spielman.

Pastor opened with devotions from Matthew Chapter 14.

Additions to the agenda: None

Secretary's report: M/S/C to approve as written.

Treasurer's report: M/S/C to approve as written.

Pastor's report: 1 hospital visit, 14 home visits, and 10 meetings/events.

Old Business: None

New Business: Motion made by Darlane, 2nd by Gwen to approve the purchase of a cell phone for Melissa as church secretary. Tim will coordinate. Discussion of church purchased/owned laptop for Melissa to use as well. Tim is working on restoring programming and will provide to Melissa upon completion.

Motion by Darlane, second by Duane to remove June Bjornson's name on the bank accounts for petty cash, and youth accounts and replace with Melissa Runningen. Motion carried.

Joint parish picnic and church service: August 20th; Free will offering will go towards area food shelves.

NOTE: Church services time change starting September 3rd: Grue 9:00 a.m., Peace 10:45 a.m.

Confirmation banquet is set for Sunday, October 22nd, hosted by Peace. Confirmation will be Sunday, October 29th.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 8th at 7:00 p.m. Grue to host.

Motion to adjourn made by Gene, second by Darlane.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Dahlen

Council Secretary

**Peace Lutheran Church
Worship Committee
Aug. 16, 2023**

Members Present: Pastor Dan, Brenda Risbrudt, Candy Catoe, Don Hanson, Carol Koefod

Old Business:

We will continue with Communion the 1st Sunday of each month.

New Business:

- I. Worship switches to 10:45am Sept.-Dec. with Sunday School prior to Worship.
- II. Sunday School Starts Oct. 1, 2023
 - A. **Acolyte Training and Refresher Course will take place during Sunday School on Oct. 8, for 6th grade- Confirmation students. Information will be mailed to families with acolyte and psalm reading schedules. It was noted how much the congregation appreciates having our youth participate in services.**
 - B. **Sunday School will sing the 4th Sunday of each month Oct. -May**
- III. Oct. 29 is Reformation Sunday and Confirmation Sunday.
- IV. Community Thanksgiving Service will take place again the TUESDAY before Thanksgiving Nov. 21
- V. Christmas Decorating: We will decorate for Christmas Mon. Nov. 27 4:00pm. All are invited and encouraged to help!
- VI. New this winter.... Starting in Jan-March "Coffee Cup Sunday" The 2nd Sunday of each month we will have a Coffee Cup Sunday with worship taking place downstairs in the fellowship hall. Bring your coffee, grab a spot at the table, and enjoy a comfortable and simple worship service.

Next Worship Committee Meeting will take place after Christmas Decorating on Mon. Nov 27 at approx 6:30 to prepare for holiday and winter services.

Submitted by Carol Koefod

August 16, 2023

The Grue Bible Study met at the Assisted Living Center in Ashby Aug. 15th at 1:30 pm.

Our lesson was on John 8:12-59. Shine, Jesus, Shine.

Jesus spoke in a setting where people were bold enough to talk back.

Jesus shows us how to speak the truth in the face of hostility. He also reveals some amazing things about himself. John: 8 12-30.

His first claim is “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Jesus also made other claims, purpose: to demonstrate how the claims of Jesus divide people according to the response of their hearts.

Bev & Marlys joined us in this lesson, always great being together again. They also joined us Wednesday morning at Grue helping prepare the meal for Mike Van Santen’s funeral. It’s great to have them with us in the kitchen crew.

Our next lesson is John 9. A blind man sees the Light, Sept. 19 at 1:30. Purpose: to encourage us to do the will of God, even when we risk opposition and misunderstanding.

It takes both rain and sunshine to make a rainbow.

Bea Runningen, Sec.



Life is like a mirror, we get the best results when you smile at it.

SEPTEMBER WELCA MESSAGE

8/23/23

Annual Stew Feed & Fall Bazaar scheduled for Saturday, September 23rd 10 am – 1pm with delicious lunch served at 11.

If you have a QUILT RAFFLE book, please RETURN TO CHURCH OFFICE SO you AND FRIENDS HAVE CHANCE TO WIN OUR BEAUTIFUL QUILT created and donated by Marcy Cawelti.

Other bazaar areas you will want to check out and/or donate:

Farmer's Market – extra produce, please bring to share Circle of Quilts always makes me smile to see beautiful quilts put together by our very own quilters.

Books & Bakery will be located in new spot, back quilting room. If you are a pie maker, please bring. We did not have any to sell last year but welcome all your favorites!

Fun and popular Basket Raffle will have more space to browse. Leslie Anderson will be available to sell tickets for your opportunity to participate. Still time to create and donate your own idea. Call Leslie Anderson if you have questions (218-731-1932)

Mona Evavold is setting up Crafts, Etc. This is always interesting area to see what individuals have made.

Lunch menu starting at 11: Beef Stew, two types of cole slaw, bread, dessert, coffee, water and/or milk. \$8.00 Preschoolers \$4.00 Serving until 1 o'clock.

Our raffle tickets indicate drawing at 7pm and Val will be coordinating. Winner will be notified after drawing.

Bring your donations on Friday or Saturday morning before doors open to public.

On Social Media? Send/share message about this event. You, friends and family do NOT want to miss!

OTHER September Events:

Synod Convention is ONLY 1 day this year, scheduled for Saturday, September 9, at Zion Lutheran in Thief River Falls. Registration forms in church office.

Conference 8 Fall Gathering is Saturday, September 30 at First Lutheran in Alexandria. If interested in attending, please call Cindy Vorland or church office. Registration must be received by September 13.

November 18th, WELCA will host an Advent Brunch scheduled for 10 am. ***Prepare Ye The Way*** will be our theme and all invited including friends and family. If interested in sponsoring a table, please contact Val or me. This will be a special time helping us focus on the season to come and prepare our hearts and minds. Each child attending will receive an Advent Calendar. This will replace our Christmas Tea.

Big Thank you to the Sorenson Family and (those who said YES when called) for serving in many capacities during month of August. If you have capacity and desire to serve in September, please call Brenda Risbrudt 612-618-9514.

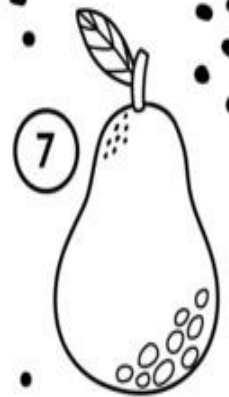
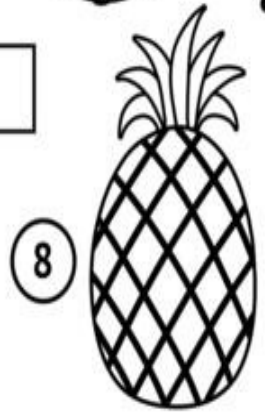
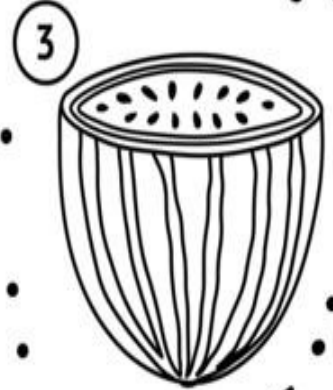
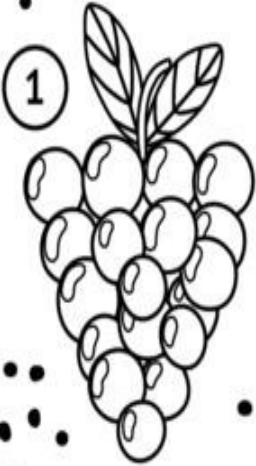
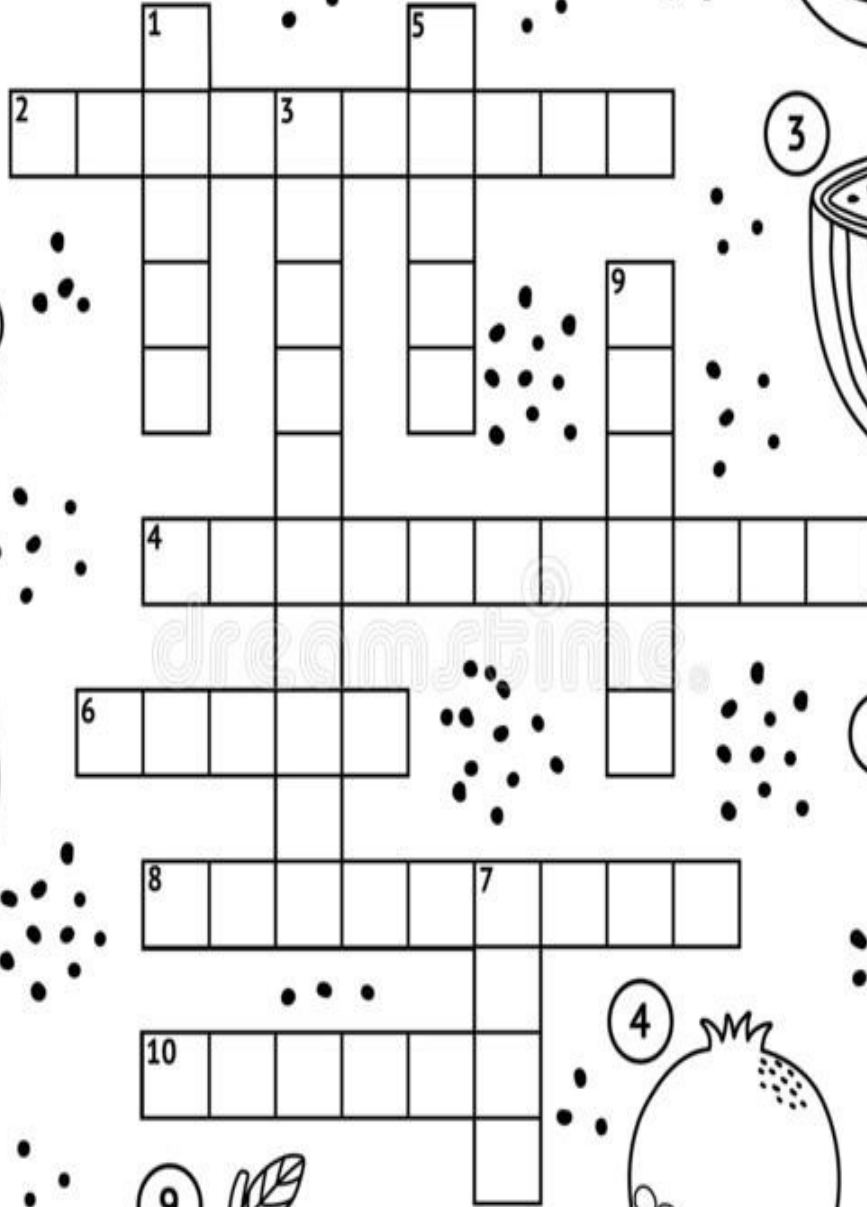
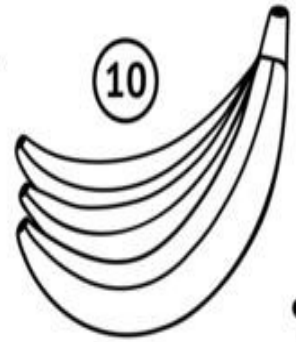
Personally, I love fall and look forward to seeing many of you at our church activities. I ask God to calm and prepare us for this busy season. I know the more we love and serve Him, the more He will be bonded in our hearts. I also pray for increased capacity of mercy for one another – it will feel like a breath of fresh air.

Your Sister in Christ and WELCA Co President

Janet Novak, 612-385-2730

P.S. As many of you know, I send out the church-wide voice messages. If you see a message from me on your phone, do not call me back. Listen to the voice mail first. Thank you

Fruits



1.Grape 2.Strawberry 3.Watermelon
4.Pomegranate 5.Lemon 6.Apple 7.Pear
8.Pineapple 9.Orange 10.Banana